

**SPECIAL MEETING  
BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN  
(PUBLIC PARTICIPATION)**

**November 28, 2006**

**7:00 PM**

Mayor Guinta called the meeting to order.

Mayor Guinta called for the Pledge of Allegiance, this function being led by Alderman Forest.

A moment of silent prayer was observed.

The Clerk called the roll. There were thirteen Aldermen present.

Present: Aldermen Roy, Gatsas, Long, Duval, Osborne, O’Neil,  
Lopez, Shea, DeVries, Garrity, Smith, Thibault, Forest

Absent: Alderman Pinard

Mayor Guinta advised that the purpose of the special meeting is to give residents of Manchester the opportunity to address the Board on items of concern affecting the community; that each person will be given only one opportunity to speak; that comments shall be limited to three minutes to allow all participants the opportunity to speak and any comments must be directed to the Chair. Mayor Guinta requested that any resident wishing to speak come forward to the nearest microphone, clearly state their name and address when recognized, and give their comments.

Irene DuPont, 116 Gilford Street, Manchester, NH (Re: portable garages) stated: my concern is I think the abuse of portable garages. I did address a letter to the Mayor to give to the right concerns, but I don’t know if they were given to anybody. My concern is the portable garages...I was under the impression that they were only supposed to be up for six months. If that’s the case, then why are there so many in our West Side neighborhood that have been up for years? And there’s one on the corner of Boynton and Glenwood that had fallen down last year. It was an eyesore and finally they replaced it. But they replaced it with a bigger one. Why are they allowed to put it on half the sidewalk? Why are they also allowed to put it on the boundary line? Now, there’s also one on the corner of Elm and South Main which also abuts the sidewalk. If this was the case, when I was going to build my garages, I would have put up portable garages. Much cheaper. Eyesore. I do have, and I’d like to give it up. The one that I think is the biggest abuse on Boynton and Glenwood Street. It’s hanging on the sidewalk and on the boundary lines. That’s my question and that’s my concern. Do I have anybody that can answer some of the questions?

Mayor Guinta stated this is just public session. I'd be happy to get back to you and follow up with the letter.

Irene DuPont continued also trailers that are left unregistered, sitting on the front lawn of Gilford Street. It's been there again for eight months. It's not used.

Glenn R.J. Ouellette, 112 Auburn Street, Manchester, NH (Re: communications and crime) stated: Are we having a government meltdown in our City or is it communication breakdown that's grinding solutions to where you don't hear us complaining? I came here a month ago. I purposely missed two meetings to give the City a month to follow up on my two complaints. Nothing was heard from the City and nobody showed up. The problems still exist. Quality of life issues cannot be solved if we come here and complain and you hear on deaf ears. I'm sorry. The question I have is where do these complaints go once we make them? Do we just pick and choose the ones to solve and not solve the others? That is the concern. You've stretched our police officers and its department already too thin. And the City's still trying to find them details that more efficient solutions would relieve the problems. If only we thought more of providing adequate services, rather than so much money. We as a local government can spend to tax our property owners and still not resolve the problems. It's been one month since I last came here and complained about the traffic problem on the corner of Auburn and Chestnut Street. Or the City's water drains that are filled with dirt and other debris that are plugged up the main holes from Manchester to Auburn Streets along Pine Street, and its alleys that run through it. When will they be cleaned? This has been going on for years. Well I'm here to report that when people complain one must wonder who in our local government is listening? If there's a lack of communication, it's not on the part of we the people. Do you hear the cries of the people or does it really matter to any of you at all? One full month has passed and still nothing has been done about these and other problems that if solved would relate to a better quality of life issues to us all within this City. We the people hear you. The Mayor and Aldermen all talk about the issues regarding the quality of life for this City. But in reality what's being done about it? We need to respond to the issues that are being complained. I don't see that being done. We all hear it's politics as usual and passing the buck, as I call the blame game. Well, there's enough blame to go around for each and every one of you Aldermen and there's still some left for the Mayor as well. One must wonder what the taxpayers and the citizenry of the City of Manchester are getting for its tax hike. It's not the resolve of a traffic problem on the corner of Auburn and Chestnut Streets, despite the fact that some \$100,000 has been spent this summer on that problem without adequate results. You forgot the pedestrians. How could you spend \$100,000 on a traffic problem on the corner of Chestnut and Auburn, and not take care of the thousands of people that leave the Verizon after every event to walk back in the inner city? That is a quality of life issue. The harassment that the people are getting from the drivers in their cars. I'm told that to resolve that issue we put an officer at that corner. That's not going to resolve the issue. Our officers are needed to fight crime. That walk light would take care of that problem. The few extra thousands of dollars

that you had to spend to finish that job means that you don't have to come back to the City next year and re-budget on a problem you supposedly have already solved. What does efficiency really mean to you people anyway? That you can spend and spend more on a problem already visited? This is what will happen if you don't finish that job this year. You will have to come back next year and propose another budget. It's going to cost you more than a few thousand dollars. The police would resolve this problem by showing up at every event. But in the long run it's going to cost the City lots more money and the real issues that we need the police people for, they won't be there to serve us because they'll be busy taking care of traffic where our lights were supposed to take care of it. The last thing I want to say is that you need to start dealing with the basic growing pains that mean maintaining what we already have and that will come a long way to the quality of life issues and help us to fight crime. Thank you and please think about it.

Tom Davis, 86 Erie Street, Manchester, NH (Re: truck signs) stated: I just have a couple questions on...last year we had some 'no truck' signs that were changed and I questioned it and I was told by one gentleman that the signs were never there. And I was told by another gentleman there was no record of the signs ever being changed. I was cleaning out some paperwork and I came across some site plans and there's a site plan from September that clearly shows a 'no truck' sign and there was another one from October that shows that the sign had been changed. And I just don't understand how we don't know if we're changing signs. Nobody knows. How can signs get changed and nobody even knows it happened? This is on the corner of Second Street, the intersection of Second Street and Main, and there were some other signs at the intersection of Boynton and Main.

Mayor Guinta stated the City Clerk will call you with an answer.

Jeff Kassel, 22 Appleton Street, Manchester NH (Re: taxes) stated: the main reason I came in tonight was to complain about the parking meter issue that has occupied some lines in the newspapers, and I, along with some other people, kind of resent that there be no discussion about this. I've seen these parking meters in other cities, and I've used them, and they're kind of a pain in the butt. I guess we're committed to this and I really don't approve of unilateral decisions made by people in government because I think the people should have been in on this one. Down in Florida I saw a lot of these machines vandalized, but in states where it's warmer it's not quite as serious as it is in New Hampshire because as the snow builds up, and we will eventually get some snow in this state, along the bank you're going to be forced to walk around the entire block to get to these machines. And women in high heels and people that are my age don't navigate too well up those snow banks. I think people are going to be very upset about it because after they walk and put their money in, and I hear there's like a minimum payment on these machines. We have a minimum payment now, which is twenty-five cents, but I heard it's going to be a minimum of one hour or one dollar. I don't have all the complete facts about it. But after you put the money in, then you're going to have to walk back in the wintertime, around the end of the block, back to your car.

And then you go about your business. So it's going to become, at the very least, an inconvenience during the wintertime for a lot of people that park downtown. And, of course, it's an extra million dollars. I read in the paper it's going to be paid off in four years, but I'm sure the parking meters that we have now are already paid off. This is just another expense. And I mention this because in the context of the initiative that was begun last year, which was not endorsed by most of the Aldermen, and it was excoriated by many of the Aldermen, the spending cap referendum to control spending in the city. And we did have two Aldermen that signed onto it. Mike Garrity was the first and eventually Frank Guinta signed onto it. We never got it on the ballot because some things that I didn't really quite understand went on in Concord and they prevented it from getting on the ballot. But we're going to be out there getting signatures again...the same people – myself, Carl Bissell, Bob Barry and a number of other people. Because now more than ever, considering the new tax increase that we're going to be facing, we are very, very determined to do something about that issue, much more determined than Aldermen who are sitting in this chamber are. There are a lot of other things that are going to be facing this City, a ten million dollar lawsuit against Gilbane, which seems to be occupying some big sections of the newspaper, as well as this...somebody forgot to tell us that there was two billion dollars of unfunded pensions. Ted, I wish you would talk to me about that because I don't fully understand that. I actually called that office in 2001 to try to find out if there was a pension shortfall because of the stock market crash, and we're going to be responsible for that money and I'd love to know what the eventual impact that's going to be on real estate taxes. Thank you.

Bill Dodd, Ward 7, (Re: city-wide) stated: I think the parking kiosk fiasco was touched on there, but what got me was what I read in the paper was that some of you fine gentlemen and ladies, I don't know which ones you were, didn't know anything about the parking kiosk proposal, but you voted on it. Maybe you ought to start reading your itineraries before you show up. Candia Road truck traffic. A couple weeks ago I showed up and said something. Nothing's changed. Pepsi, Mrs. Buds, box trucks, commercial garbage trucks, anything that has a CDO license that's required shouldn't be coming down that street before seven o'clock in the morning, much less at 4:30. Mufflers, motorcycles, cars, same thing. The RSA on car mufflers is anything that's unusual. To me, unusual is anything louder than the way it comes out of the factory. So all your little Japanese cars that have little chrome big tail pipes sticking out that you can hear them three blocks away, wound up like a washing machine, is unusual. Somebody ought to be looking into it. Jobin Drive. Remember I talked to you about the granite curbing bump outs? Turns out they're going to be crosswalks. There's electrical wiring in now and places to bolt them down. Kind of unusual to put crosswalks on like that, the only street in the City with those concrete bump outs. But there's no sidewalk. The kids are going to walk down the middle of the street before they get to a crosswalk. I don't know. You've got to spend money a little bit better than that. Cameras on the buses. Twenty-one buses in the City here, proposed at \$2,200 a bus. Funny, Hooksett had a thing in the paper; they're going to do it for \$650 a bus. Better check with them. But there was also a piece about monitors on the bus, to watch the kids. My last two years in high school down

in Virginia, I drove a school bus round trip, fifty-seven miles each way in the morning and back. Over a hundred miles a day. I was in charge of the school bus as a junior and senior in high school. And I had people taken off the bus for being unruly. You're paying the school bus drivers to do something: have them do it. The monitors are only going to watch the child of the school bus driver, if they have one on there. Hands Across Merrimack Project. This is something that really caught me surprised. Guess who maintains Riverwalk down there? Parks and Rec. They're going to put up a \$50,000 sculpture down there to honor the founder of Granite State Packing. I wanted to, out of my own pocket pay for, you know, little white signs in front of the trees at Gill Stadium and the schools. I wanted to pay out of my own pocket for one of those to go over at Jewett Street School to honor a teacher who had 33 years of service to the City. Couldn't do it. Parks and Rec will only let you put down a six by twelve inch little granite piece, like a cemetery marker. She's not dead yet. But Parks and Rec maintains the Riverwalk, but yet they're going to let a sculpture go up. Don't you appreciate your school teachers? The last thing goes out real quick. The Airport Director, doing a fantastic job over there. But \$170,000 for a salary and you want to tie him into something bigger? I remember a half a dozen, eight years ago, when Mr. Testa was here, and he said he was leaving for Pennsylvania. You boys and girls had a little closed door meeting and offered him something like a \$40,000 pay raise to stay. And a couple of you people sitting here tonight voted for that. Okay. There's no department head in the City that cannot be replaced. My taxes went up almost a thousand bucks this year. Your school superintendent salary...you paid the former school superintendent another year's salary and went out and hired another one for the same year. Start doing some things that are a little more responsible and what have you, like that. Like I said, every department head is replaceable. Gee, Your Honor, you're replaceable every two years and you can't get a pay raise. So why don't you boys and girls start looking out for us taxpayers here and these big exorbitant contracts? If Mr. Dillon or any other department head wants to go somewhere, so be it. You had two people at the School Board, couldn't go any higher in the positions they were in, so we just changed their title and made them Assistant Superintendents, gave them a \$12,000 pay raise, and started a whole new pay scale all over again. If Mr. Dillon decides he wants to leave, or any other department head, you go back and start the salary a little bit lower and let it work up again. But, start doing things a little more responsible with my tax dollars, please. Thank you.

There being no one else present wishing to speak, on motion of Alderman Roy, duly seconded by Alderman Thibault, it was voted to take all comments under advisement and further to receive and file any written documentation presented.

This being a special meeting of the Board, no further business was presented and on motion of Alderman Thibault, duly seconded by Alderman Shea, it was voted to adjourn.

A True Record. Attest.

City Clerk